

Kingston	Mica	Scalise
Kline (MN)	Miller (FL)	Schmidt
Lamborn	Miller, Gary	Schock
Latham	Myrick	Sensenbrenner
Latta	Neugebauer	Sessions
Lewis (CA)	Nunes	Shadegg
Linder	Olson	Shimkus
Lucas	Paul	Shuster
Luetkemeyer	Pence	Smith (NE)
Lummis	Pitts	Smith (TX)
Lungren, Daniel	Poe (TX)	Souder
E.	Posey	Stearns
Mack	Price (GA)	Terry
Manzullo	Putnam	Thornberry
Marchant	Radanovich	Tiahrt
Marshall	Roe (TN)	Walden
McCarthy (CA)	Rogers (KY)	Wamp
McCaul	Rogers (MI)	Westmoreland
McClintock	Rohrabacher	Whitfield
McHenry	Rooney	Wilson (SC)
McKeon	Roskam	Wittman
McMorris	Royce	
Rodgers	Ryan (WI)	

## NOT VOTING—6

Boucher	Sherman	Solis (CA)
Meeks (NY)	Snyder	Sullivan

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1445

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Speaker, on Rollcall No. 16, I was avoidably delayed and just missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

□ 1445

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOLDEN). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on a motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

## REQUIRING COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF WASTE, FRAUD, ABUSE, OR MISMANAGEMENT

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 40) amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require each standing committee to hold periodic hearings on the topic of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs which that committee may authorize, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

## H. RES. 40

*Resolved*, That clause 2 of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(n)(1) Each standing committee, or a subcommittee thereof, shall hold at least one hearing during each 120-day period following the establishment of the committee on the topic of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement in Government programs which that committee may authorize.

"(2) A hearing described in subparagraph (1) shall include a focus on the most egregious instances of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement as documented by any report the committee has received from a Federal Office of the Inspector General or the Comptroller General of the United States.

"(o) Each committee, or a subcommittee thereof, shall hold at least one hearing in any session in which the committee has received disclaimers of agency financial statements from auditors of any Federal agency that the committee may authorize to hear testimony on such disclaimers from representatives of any such agency.

"(p) Each standing committee, or a subcommittee thereof, shall hold at least one hearing on issues raised by reports issued by the Comptroller General of the United States indicating that Federal programs or operations that the committee may authorize are at high risk for waste, fraud, and mismanagement, known as the 'high-risk list' or the 'high-risk series'."

SEC. 2. Clause 1(d)(3) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "That section shall also delineate any hearings held pursuant to clauses 2(n), (o), or (p) of this rule."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) and the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA).

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on House Resolution 40.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, make no mistake about it, these are tough times for our country. The United States is facing an economic disaster unlike anything we have seen since the Great Depression.

In the coming weeks, there will surely be differences of opinion as to how to best address the ailments of our Nation. But one thing is certain: Now, more than ever, it is time to ensure that government spends the taxpayers' money wisely.

For the first 6 years of the Bush administration, there was virtually no oversight by the Republican-led Congress. This led to rampant fraud and abuse, and billions of dollars of taxpayer dollars that were squandered by the administration, particularly regarding Iraq reconstruction and the response to Katrina.

Beginning in January of 2007, the Democratic Congress turned a new page and took numerous steps to begin changing the way we do business by re-

storing accountability and oversight. House Resolution 40, introduced by my very good friend and fellow Blue Dog colleague, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER), and myself, simply adds another layer to the rigorous oversight measures that we have already established.

This resolution amends the House rules to require each standing committee to hold at least three hearings per year on waste, fraud and abuse under each respective committee's jurisdiction. It requires a hearing in the event that an agency's auditor issues a disclaimer that the agency's financial statements are not in order. It also requires a hearing if an agency under that respective committee's jurisdiction has a program deemed by the GAO to be at high risk for waste, fraud and abuse.

Mr. Speaker, at the request of my friends on the other side of the aisle, there are two other stipulations. First, that the resolution shall be considered in light of existing House rules governing the conduct of committee hearings, including hearings held in executive session and the treatment of executive session materials; and, second, to require that committee activities reports identify the hearings held under the resolution.

Friends, plain and simple, it is now time to audit America's books. This resolution will add another level of accountability by shining light on the most egregious cases of government waste.

I would add, Mr. Speaker, that I am very encouraged by President-elect Obama's statements regarding his intent to pore through the budget line-by-line to eliminate wasteful spending. However, while I take the President-elect at his word, this resolution demonstrates that this Democratic Congress will not turn a blind eye to government waste simply because there is now a Democratic administration. Free passes are over, and we must build upon increased oversight and accountability efforts.

We have an opportunity to reinvent government and adhere to the fiscal accountability measures that Blue Dogs have long advocated. This will require tough decisions. But given these challenging economic times, cutting out waste, fraud and abuse must be among our top priorities in this Congress. All this requires is some bureaucratic soul-searching.

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join the Blue Dogs in this quest.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I very gladly rise in strong support of this resolution, and, more importantly, in the bipartisan spirit in which it has been shaped.

The basic idea behind this resolution, as my friend has said, is to ensure that committees are fulfilling their oversight duties and fully addressing the